

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

From Porter & Coates we have received "Margaret, a Tale of the Real and the Ideal, Bright and Bloom," by Sylvester Judd. Published by Roberts Brothers. Judd's "Margaret" has been out of print for many years, and the interest which it originally excited has been kept alive among a select few by the series of exquisite designs from the pencil of F. O. C. Darley which it inspired. When it first appeared, more than twenty years ago, it excited the ardent admiration of a limited number of readers, while it was felt by the many and finally fell into neglect, as such books are apt to do. The issuing of a new and handsome edition at this time, however, is a proof that the book has some of the vitality that its admirers claimed for it, and although a reprint after the lapse of a number of years has only confirmed our original opinion that its extravagances are decidedly more prominent than its beauties, it cannot be denied that it is a work of very great merit that is well deserving of a permanent place in American literature. While the author has not copied or even imitated Goethe, he has, unconsciously perhaps, borrowed an idea from him, and "Margaret" may not inaptly be described as a Yankeeified feminine "Wilhelm Meister." It is literally certain from all internal evidences that if "Wilhelm Meister" had never been written, "Margaret" would never have appeared in its present state at least. The purpose of the book is to represent an intellectual and particularly a spiritual development, and the events of the story are designed only to form a background upon which to display the peculiar religious, moral, and political theories of the writer. In reality the book has no plot, but is merely a series of incidents, but the author has shown his ability as an artist by the admirably drawn characters that people his pages, and by the many exquisite descriptions of scenery and New England life that are scattered through the work. The character of "Margaret," in particular, is delineated with a poetical insight that is remarkable, and in spite of the many fantastic extravagances with which it is overlaid, and the peculiar theological ideas which it is employed to set forth, the heroine is altogether charming until she becomes the presiding genius of a sort of Yankee Utopia, when both book and heroine begin to lose their fascination. "Margaret" is not a book that will suit the tastes of the ordinary run of novel readers, and it must be said that there is much in it that is both absurd and insufferably dull. Since it has been written some of the social and religious experiments suggested by it have been tried and have failed, and if such experiments are worth anything at all, they prove that neither the cause of religion nor that of the temporal happiness of mankind are to be promoted by the establishment of special communities that labor apart from the great mass of humanity. As a picture of New England life at the period just after the Revolution "Margaret" has merits of a very decided order, and in spite of the wordiness that is one of its marked characteristics, it is well worth reading and of being retained upon the library shelf for more than one purpose.

The designs by Mr. Darley, to which we have before alluded, are even more worthy of preservation and a wide dissemination than the book which they illustrate. The series has long been considered by the most judicious admirers of the artist as his chef d'œuvre, and as it has long been out of print and is only obtainable occasionally at second-hand bookstores, a new edition would not be inappropriate, now that the story is again coming into notice.

—Claxton, Remson & Hafelfinger send us a "History of the American Stage," by T. Alston Brown. Published by Dick & Fitzgerald. There is probably no man in the United States who is better able to compile such a work as the one before us than Colonel Brown. He has had a number of years' experience as a critic, and has, in various ways, had unusual facilities for obtaining information about actors and actresses and matters relating to stage history in the United States. This book is a biographical dictionary of nearly all the members of the dramatic and musical professions that have appeared in the United States from 1733 to 1870, rather than a history in the strict acceptance of the word. In this shape, however, it will be more interesting and more useful to the majority of those who will use it than it would be if it were a continuous narrative. As a work of reference to all who are interested in theatrical matters it will be invaluable, and the author is to be complimented both upon his industry and his critical impartiality. With regard to deceased members of the theatrical profession and the most prominent living performers, it is remarkably full and satisfactory, and its only deficiency is that it has been found impossible always to obtain the necessary information about the least prominent of the actors now upon the stage. This is a deficiency, however, that no theatrical chronicler would be able to overcome, and it in reality impairs the value of the book but little. The book is profusely illustrated with portraits of prominent living actors and actresses, and it is well worthy of a place upon the library shelves of all who are interested in theatrical matters.

The same house sends us "Little Mary and the Fairy," by Harriet B. McKeever, a pleasant little book, in prose and verse, for children, illustrated by a number of clever designs in colors. We must protest, however, against the appalling group which figures on the title-page, and which we sincerely hope is not intended for the author's and her family.

There is a special fascination for young people, as is evinced by the great popularity of "The Rollo" books, "The Franconia Stories," and other works that have proceeded from his pen. They are filled with minute descriptions of the kind of sports that boys and girls love to indulge in, and it is their hearty sympathy with youthful tastes that commends them so strongly to the important class of readers for whom they are specially intended. Mr. Abbott always has a moral purpose in view, but it must be confessed that he sugars his pills with discretion, and the best praise we can bestow upon the two pretty little books before us is to say that they are quite as entertaining as any we have seen by the same author.

Messrs. Martien & Co. also send us of the publications of Dodd & Mead, "Nelly's Dark Days," by the author of "Jessica's First Prayer." This is a religious story for children, which has the merit of being more interesting than religious stories generally are. It is nicely printed, and is bound in very tasteful and attractive style.

—The forty-third number of "Zell's Popular Encyclopedia" comes down to the title "Pontiff." Among the most important subjects treated are "Philadelphia," "Photography," "Phrenology," "Pittsburg," "Platinum," "Plato," "Poison," "Poland," "Polypus," and "Pompey." In the article on "Plato" a mistake has been made in giving a portrait of Socrates for that of his disciple.

—The November number of *The Riverside Magazine* has an interesting series of stories, sketches, and verses adapted to the tastes of the young people. The illustrations are numerous and good, and the readers of the magazine will be particularly interested in the half-dozen beautiful pictures in black by Paul Konewka, whose illustrations of *Midsummer Night's Dream* have been so much admired.

—The October number of *The Bureau* contains a series of interesting and valuable articles on protection and free trade which are well worthy of the consideration of those who have at heart the promotion and protection of our home industry.

—The *American Exchange and Review* for October has several ably written articles on general topics, and, as usual, full statistics on the subjects of finance, money, insurance, railroads, manufactures, patents, commerce, art, etc.

—From the Central News Company we have received the latest numbers of *The St. James' Magazine* and *The Illustrated London Almanac* for 1871, which, in addition to much valuable statistical information, contains a number of readable miscellaneous sketches and many handsome illustrations.

THE FRENCH FAILURE. From the Army and Navy Journal. Perhaps there is no question which is engaging such general attention at present as the question, Why have the French failed? It is one which we have no intention of deciding here. Volumes must be written on every side of the theme before all its causes have been set down in print; and those who hope to explain in a pamphlet or during an hour's talk the why and the wherefore, must have either very little or a very great deal of information. We only desire to point out the fact that the reason why the French failed is very different from the reason why the Germans succeeded. It is easy to see how there can be accidents in war or single causes which may account at once for the success and the failure on the same field of battle. But the roots of German power have been long in gaining their deep hold, and the sap which gave the French military growth its character has been getting thin and weak for many years. Through all the struggles in this war there has run a current of unsuccess, a fatal lack of power, which has defeated the French army whether it fought in the open field or behind intrenchments, whether it attacked the enemy or defended itself, whether the engagement was only a skirmish between cavalry outposts, or the fate of the army and every man in it—of France and her future for half a century—hung in the balance. The French have fought well, but they have never found themselves in circumstances so critical that victory was felt to be the only issue that could be accepted; they have never heard that voice of necessity which may call the soldier to efforts greater than are to be expected of man. But the Germans have. The frontier was not valuable enough to the Frenchman to make either Wissembourg or Spicheren Hills a victory; the junction of Bazaine with the new army of MacMahon was not important enough to arouse in the army before Metz the determination to win Vionville against such Germans as had come up. Finally, there was not enough of discipline or disaster in the looming capitulation at Sedan to call forth even our vigorous stroke on September 1 against the extended line that surrounded the French army. The French have not been outnumbered in every battle, in every corner of the great field. Spicheren Hills and Vionville are battles that were fought by the heads of unconcentrated armies against an enemy lying in chosen and fortified places, and both were brilliant successes. The Germans have held their lines more than once against charges that would have been overwhelming in their hands and were so in numbers. It is not to the admirable tactical drill, the intellectual superiority, or anything else that pertains to the German soldier, that the fatal ill-fortune of the French is to be attributed. Causes must be found within the French themselves for such a state of affairs. It may be that the consciousness of inferiority, the crushing effect of the first defeats, the doubt of their generals, the wretched character of their commissariat, will account for their apparently hopeless spirit; but it is more probable that the historian who gathers up the causes of the war—historical, moral, religious, national, military—will write down as the sum and consequent of them all that the French exhibited a marvellous and destructive inefficiency in the field.

In this state of things we have an explanation of the remarkable inaction of the French at a time when slight successes against the enemy would be most telling in their effect upon the siege of Paris. The two hundred miles of railway communication, upon the integrity of which the whole success of the Germans depends, remains unthreatened by the least raid. Undoubtedly the difficulty of reaching it is very great. A deep border of cavalry outposts lies along its whole length, ready to give such early warning of hostile movements that troops could be concentrated upon any point in numbers sufficient to

make success problematical with any troops. How much more hopeless, then, are such operations when undertaken with soldiers who cannot win a fight great or small! In isolated parts of battles the French have sometimes presented a bold bearing, and have made their enemy tell off every step with one or many dead; but the success has never endured to the end of the day, and the fact that they are unable ever to go beyond a certain point in victory is a prophecy of defeat. Military writers in every country are asking why the French do not organize flying columns, sudden attacks, and a series of at least annoyances if not positive hindrances against the invaders. We think that those who have watched the progress of this war will find in the apparent dispiritiveness of French soldiers a reason sufficient to dissuade any commander from undertaking bold operations.

BABY FARMING. Extraordinary Revelations.—The Trade of Murder—Statement of Margaret Waters. During a discussion on baby-farming at the Diacetical Society's Rooms, a statement made by Margaret Waters on Wednesday, October 13, and which covered some fifteen slides of foolscap, excited great interest. The cable has since reported this woman hanged for her crimes. The discussion was originated by a paper of Dr. Dickerson's, "The Trade of Murder, or Baby-Farming and its Physical and Social Effects." Waters' revelations were as follows:—

WATERS' STATEMENT. Waters, it appeared, was a widow since 1864. In that year she was settled with her husband in Newfoundland, and was in very good circumstances. The year following she returned to a visit, and they proceeded to Scotland. In Glasgow her husband died, and she returned to Newfoundland to wind up the family affairs, and realize whatever property remained. Having done this, she returned to England with £300 in her possession. Intending to turn her capital to account, she took a house in Addington square, Camberwell, and put into it a number of sewing machines. Her plan was to make collars and other such articles, and sell them to the city houses. She knew little of the business, however, and partly owing to that circumstance, and partly to the miserable prices which were paid for such goods, she was, at the end of the year, a loser of £350. She then resolved to save herself by letting lodgings, and that step led her imperceptibly into her career of baby-farming.

A FIRST LODGER. One of her first lodgers was a lady living under the protection of a city solicitor, and passing as his wife under an assumed name. Mrs. Waters did not know that she had a single woman, but believed that she was really the gentleman's wife. She was in confined the house, and she then left, but said she did not wish to take the child with her, and offered to pay Mrs. Waters for nursing it. The lady consented, and that was the first child she in any way farmed. The same lady came again, was confined, and left another child, when she also paid very well for. Being in difficulties, Mrs. Waters began to think that it would be a good means of adding to her income, but she did not go into baby-farming as yet systematically. Some more ladies became lodgers under much the same circumstances as the first, and two of their children were also sent with her. She had at one time four children in her care in Addington Square. She never advertised at this time. Meanwhile, she was steadily going down hill, and she found herself obliged to leave Addington Square and go to Barnum's Terrace, Fenchurch, where she commenced baby-farming as a system. She advertised for children, and she had answers from persons in all stations. Among others of her clients was a Chancery barrister, a well-known name in the law courts, who took in one time four children in her care in Addington Square. She never advertised at this time. Meanwhile, she was steadily going down hill, and she found herself obliged to leave Addington Square and go to Barnum's Terrace, Fenchurch, where she commenced baby-farming as a system. She advertised for children, and she had answers from persons in all stations. Among others of her clients was a Chancery barrister, a well-known name in the law courts, who took in one time four children in her care in Addington Square. She never advertised at this time.

At this time the children were as well attended to as she could manage it, and a medical man was always called in when they fell sick. When they died they were buried properly, and she had the bodies of the children kept in a cold room, some from diarrhoea and wasting and others from convulsions. She was very poor and determined to save the price of burial by leaving them about. She wrapped the bodies in brown paper, and took the bodies at night and left them where they were found by people afterward. She maintains that she did what she could for these children, and attended to them to the best of her power.

"GETTING RID" OF CHILDREN. There were also four other children whom she got rid of for which she is now very sorry. She took them one at a time into the streets, and when she saw little boys and girls at play she called one of them and said, "Oh, I am so tired! Here, hold my baby, and take a sixpence for you to go into the sweet shop and get something nice." While the boy or girl went into the shop she made off. The babies, she believes, were generally taken to the work-house. On one occasion the boy to whom she gave one was served so quickly that he came out against his wishes, and had time to get away. She therefore stepped into an oyster-shop and ordered some oysters. She saw the boy looking up and down with the baby in his arms, and when he did not see her, he began to cry. Some people gathered, and a policeman came up, to whom the boy showed the baby. The policeman then walked away with the boy, and she left the oyster-shop and got off safe. Some of the persons who gave the children for adoption were eventually well off. The babies were very well dressed. She used to have appointments often to meet parties at the railway stations, and a gentleman, accompanied by a nurse, would give her the child. Sometimes the children were given to her within an hour after they were born—in late time, in fact, and before they were even dressed.

PATENT SHOULDER-SEAM SHIRT MANUFACTORY, AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING STORE. PERFECTLY FITTING SHIRTS AND DRAWERS made from measurement at very short notice. All other articles of GENTLEMEN'S DRESS GOODS in full variety. WINCHESTER & CO., No. 106 CHESTNUT STREET.

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STATEMENT OF THE ASSETS. United States Government \$766,450. Bonds 1,123,946. Railroad, Bank and Canal Stocks 55,708. Cash in Bank and Office 247,620. Loans on Collateral Security 82,228. Notes Receivable, mostly Marine Premiums 331,344. Accrued Interest 20,357. Premiums in course of transmission 85,198. Unsettled Marine Premiums 100,900. Real Estate, Office of Company, Philadelphia 80,000. \$2,783,663.

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THE WYOMING LINE TO SAVANNAH, GA. The WYOMING will sail for Savannah on Saturday, October 29, at 8 A. M. The WYOMING will sail from Savannah on Saturday, October 29, at 8 A. M.

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